for supply of Electricity by a generating company to a distribution licensee is determined by the Appropriate Eelctricity Regulatory Commission in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by the Commission.

The rates for supply of power by these producers are different because of the fact that the cost of generation for various power stations varies depending upon the various factors such as capital cost of the project, type of fuel used, transportation cost and operating parameters.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government.

(b) Mainly SEBs purchase power from NTPC and NHPC. Average selling rates for power for major producers of power in the country i.e., NTPC and NHPC for the year 2004-05 were 152 paise per unit and 148.03 paise per unit respectively.

(d) The average percentage of power being purchased by the State Electricity Boards/power utilities of the total power available for sale to their consumers from various power producers during the year 2005-06 was 51.66%.

Revised structure of APDRP

1101. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to restructure the Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) with an outlay of Rs. 40,000 crore under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details and main features of the APDRP;

(c) on what lines the programme was sought to be restructured, and the revised structure and other details of the restructured programme; and

(d) the objects sought to be achieved under the restructured programme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the sensitivity of the need to reform and revitablizing of the power sector, changes have been incorporated in the implementation of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) from time to time. The changes have been based not only on the requirement but also on the basis of feedback received from various stakeholders in the power sector. They are :

(i) APDRP was originally started as Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in 2000-01, with emphasis on upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network and also on renovation and modernization/life extension/uprating of old power plants (thermal and hydel).

(ii) Based on the resolutions passed in the Chief Ministers' conference held on March 3, 2001 and recommendations of Deepak Parekh Committee on State specific reforms APDP was rechristened as APDRP during 2002-03 with focus on concentrated zones i.e. industrial and urban areas. Incentive component was introduced in 2002-03 to encourage the utilities to reduce their cash losses.

(iii) To make the programme more effective, the following measures were initiated:

- the utilities were asked to sign Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), to commit improvements in set of benchmark parameters.
- Linking of securitisation under Tripartite Agreement to secure CPSUs dues for assistance under APDRP.
- A massive programme for training of utility personnel.
- Ranking of SEBs/utilities by independent agencies viz CRISIL & ICRA.
- Dissemination of best practices amongst the utilities through national level workshops.
- Appointing agencies like TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute), SBI Capital, Tata Consultancy Services, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and ASCI (Administrative Staff College of India), Hyderabad to evaluate APDRP projects.

The main features of programme are to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT & C) losses; to bring about commercial viability; to reduce outages and interruptions; and to increase consumer satisfaction. The programme envisages an investment component that covers strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system with twenty five percent grant and an incentive component as grant to states/utilities that reduce cash losses with 2000-01 as the base year.

Thus, restructuring the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) is a continuous process not only to fine-tune the parameters of performance of the power utilities but also to motivate the power utilities to become commercially viable.

(d) APDRP will the continue to focus on reducing AT&C losses, improve commercial viability of the Utilities, reducing outages & interruptions and to improve consumer satisfaction.

Mega investment for Assam

1102. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister have recently announced a mega investment to the tune of Rs. 60 billion in Assam to boost the energy sectors and shore up the State's beleagured power supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar largesse is likely to be announced for other States in Eastern and North-Eastern parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) During the inauguration of 500 MW Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project at Bongaigaon in Assam, an investment of Rs. 6,000 crore in the energy sector i.e. Rs. 3,000 crore for the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project and another Rs. 3000 crore as a package for development of coal mines in the region was announced by the Prime Minister. Coal India Limited has identified eight projects with an outlay of Rs. 1425 crores for augmenting production to a level of 1.65 million tones per annum from North Eastern Coalfields. The investment aims at upgrading the